



Chairman's Newsletter

Number 2. February, 1979.

HELLO FOR 1979.

And a cordial greeting to both new and old members. Actually, no member of ISASC is really that old, as our society only came into being in 1977. However, a number of members joined us in late '78 and early '79, which makes them relatively new and deserving of a special welcome.

HOW COME TWO NEWSLETTERS IN A ROW?

It wasn't planned that way, although your Chairman (that's me) is expected to write two a year. It's just that there's so much to tell that this seemed a good time to do the telling, which probably makes the most scheduling sense. You can expect at least one more newsletter this year (perhaps more), but according to no particular timetable.

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE.

As of the end of 1978, by combining members from that year and the new members who joined for 1979, we wound up with a grand total of 96 members. However, because of a nominal fall-off of 1978 members, a dues delinquency situation (sad, but true), and dues still on their way from countries far from the U.S., our present paid-up count is 82. Al Eaches is still receiving checks and bank drafts, and I'm confident we'll be at the 90 mark or higher

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by the time spring arrives (yea for spring! -- especially if you've managed to survive Chicago's winter).

¡BIENVENIDO!

While on the subject of membership, it's a most appropriate time to extend a welcome to our first Spanish member, Susana Berastegui, who hails from Irun in northern Spain. Which brings the list of countries with ISASC members to an impressive ten.

APRIL IN SAN FRANCISCO: A SPECIAL TIME.

April 21st and 22nd, to be exact, when a scale symposium and auction sponsored by three ISASC members is to be held. Those whose idea it was (and a great one), and who are putting the weekend together, are Joel Malter, Bill Doniger, and Dick Wagers. The program will include a number of talks on scales and weights by several ISASC members, a full-scale (pun), professionally-run auction, a shop-and-swap session, and, of course, camaraderie from beginning to end. Best of all, Michael and Diana Crawforth will be there, it being their very first visit to the U.S. Invitations to all ISASC members are in the mail, and we hope many of you will be with us, including those from far-distant places who may be able to make the weekend part of an extended vacation. Margie and I have already made our reservations, and we're eagerly looking forward to what promises to be a marvelous time for all.

DID YOU KNOW...

that you can buy a second subscription to EQUILIBRIUM for \$14 a year? And that you can buy back issues, starting with Spring, 1978, for only \$3.50 each? Several members have taken us up on these offers (thereby helping our exchequer), and, if you're similarly inclined, make out your check to ISASC, specify on a note just what you'd like, and send your order to me.

DID YOU ALSO KNOW...

that subscriptions to EQM are available to "non-members" at the annual \$14 charge, but only if they are libraries, museums, and

other such organizations. (The Science Museum in London was the first to take advantage of this offer.) If you know of any organizations that might be interested in our publication, put them in touch with us.

SCALE MAKERS, HERE COMES ISASC.

One of our new members is Cliff Morris, who not only owns his own scale firm, but this year is president of the National Scale Men's Association. Cliff suggested that I join NSMA, and I promptly did. The association's central (U.S.) chapter holds its meetings in Chicago and I plan to take them in, particularly because many of the members not only are scale manufacturers but, according to Cliff, are scale collectors as well. Naturally, I'll talk up (and recruit for) ISASC, and will give you an updated report in my next newsletter.

Also, NSMA sponsors an annual technical conference and exhibit, this year's to be held in May at a New Jersey resort. If any member wants more particulars, write to National Scale Men's Association, 214½ South Washington Street, Naperville, IL 60540 U.S.A.

THE POWER OF THE PRESS.

A staff writer for the Christian Science Monitor secured my name from Terry Kovel, a well-known Cleveland antique dealer who also writes a syndicated column about antiques, and I sent her a ton (well, several pounds) of background material. An illustrated article (short but nice) appeared a few weeks later, and the next thing you know, we received a batch of inquiries about ISASC, including a number from people wanting to buy or sell scales. Albert Eaches, our stateside research expert, took on the task of answering them and I'm planning to enclose a copy of the article with the spring EQM.

CATALOG-ING ALONG.

On the heels of my inquiry about members' interest in scale catalogs (practically unanimous in the affirmative, by the way), Ingolf Herre, Norman Sturgess, Mort Wormser and Bob Roberts all wrote and told us about catalogs they own, and in some cases offered to lend ISASC one or more to reproduce and make available to members. Before the year is out we hope to offer you the opportunity to buy copies of some very old and very interesting catalogs.

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AND FOR THE SCHOLARLY COLLECTOR...

We're also planning to produce a bibliography on scales and weights, to include articles, pamphlets, books, catalogs, historical documents, and whatever else we can uncover on the subject. Each item will be listed by title and author (where appropriate), briefly described, and, most importantly, identified as to its availability, source, and cost. Members will then be able to take action on their own to secure whatever appeals to them.

Here, again, we can expect some assistance from the Messrs. Sturgess, Wormser, and Roberts, who we're counting on to give us a list of their library works to include in our bibliography.

BUSINESS CARDS FOR THE BUSY COLLECTOR.

A number of members, myself included, have found business cards helpful in our pursuit of scales, and a small assortment now reposes in our ISASC files. Which logically gave rise to the idea of an official ISASC business card. Which is now a fait accompli. Enclosed is what is called a shell, imprinted four-up and bearing only the ISASC masthead, and stapled to it is my new card, fully-imprinted. We've had the shells printed in substantial quantity and have packaged them, 30 per package. Thus, each package of 30 shells is the equivalent of 120 cards, and is available to members at \$10 per package, plus \$1.00 for postage.

If you'd like your own "official" ISASC business card, send me a check or international bank draft for \$11, U.S. only, made out to ISASC (\$22 if you'd like two packages). Then, when you receive your shells, take them to a local printer who, for what should be a nominal cost, will imprint them as you specify and cut and trim them to size.

If enough members take advantage of this new ISASC service, we stand a good chance of recovering our investment and perhaps even making a small profit. Which then means we'll be able to continue the service and offer it to new members as well.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY DELAYED, ALAS.

We're sorry about that, but the time lag that ensued with both the payment of dues and the return of updated information forms gave us no choice. However, we've set March 31st as a firm cutoff date, at which time we'll definitely produce the 1979 directory in time to include it with the Spring EQM. (If your collection was described in our original membership directory and you'd like the information updated, please make haste to fill out and return the form we sent you. Otherwise, we'll have to repeat what we said the first time around.)

MONEY MATTERS (IT SURELY DOES).

Albert Eaches did a yoeman job in maintaining our books for 1978, but it was beyond his capabilities to turn red into black. Thus, we ended 1978 with close to a \$500 deficit, as you'll note from our first annual statement enclosed. Sources of revenue other than dues that may enable us to reduce (if not eliminate) our 1978 deficit include the sale of catalogs, business cards, and extra issues of and subscriptions to EQM. However, that's not something we can bank on (pun), and we've based our 1979 fiscal projection solely on dues income. Our revenue is estimated at \$2430 (90 members x \$27) and our expenses at \$2000. So...if our projection holds up and if we can continue to print EQM at no cost, we should be solvent in 1979, if barely so. Which, in turn, leads me to one other thought: A number of members, recognizing that our balance sheet leaves something to be desired, sent us some extra money along with their dues. We're sure they're not expecting to be mentioned by name, and we won't do so, but we do extend our special thanks to them.

AND FINALLY...

Also enclosed is your new membership certificate, an article on letter and parcel scales, and the latest issue of EQM (this time 28 pages long!). Taken together, we hope these benefits enhance your interest in ISASC and justify your support of our society.

Fraternally,



